

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0035] A sub-network of network elements (12) is connected to a network (14), such as an STS-1 network. Connection paths through the network (12) are not known. Each network element (12) sends out information particularly  
5 identifying an endpoint on each its channels. This endpoint information is received at other network elements (12) which record the information relative to their own endpoint identifiers. The endpoint identifiers for each connection path are stored in a central table.